GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Prohibition & Excise – Levy of COVID fee on each of the Bar lincenses in Form 2B of an amount equal to 20% of the base License fee and non-refundable Registration Charge in each slab - Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (Excise) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 274 **Dated: 18-09-2020.**

Read:

From the Commissioner of Proh. & Excise, A.P., Cr.No.3300/2020/CPE/E3, dt.17.09.2020.

ORDER:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh have an avowed policy of reducing the consumption levels of alcohol with a view to improve the physical quality of life of its people.

2. In order to realize the objective, Andhra Pradesh Government removed 43,000 Belt shops spread across various villages, throughout the state. Further, in order to ensure that there remain no belt shops in any village, the Government removed private people from operating liquor shops. The government has further taken a number of proactive steps to ensure its commitment towards the cause of reduction in alcohol consumption and moving towards better life.

3. A gathering area, right beside the liquor shop popularly known as "permit room" has been dispensed with. Laws have been enacted to ensure strict action in case of possession of liquor beyond the limit or sale of liquor illegally.

4. The Government reduced the retail outlets from (4380) to (2934) i.e. by about 33% to reduce access to availability of liquor and granted exclusive privilege to APSBCL to run these retail outlets in public interest. Timing is also reduced to discourage consumption of liquor.

5. Furthermore, the Government issued orders to reduce bars by 40% from (840) to (530) which is subjudiced.

6. In order to create awareness among the public on the evils of consumption of liquor / intoxicants, the Madya Vimochana Prachara Committee was constituted and awareness programs are being conducted all over the State.

7. Furthermore, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing several schemes for the welfare of people from downtrodden sections. The Schemes include Rythu Bharosa, Vahana Mithra, Jagananna Vidya Deevena, Jaganna Chedodu, Tele medicine, zero interest loan schemes to women, Amma Vodi, Nadu Nedu etc.

8. The COVID-19 lockdown implemented in the State following the directions of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has resulted in cessation of all the economic activities in the State seriously affecting the revenues of the State during the months of April, May, June, July and August, 2020. While the fall in revenues from all sources continued, there is a steep increase in the expenditure relating to ramping up of health services for combating COVID-19 pandemic. The welfare schemes also require huge financial allocations. Considering the fact that the revenues of the State are plummeting on one hand and the requirement of finances to implement the pro-poor schemes is escalating on the other hand, it has become imperative to augment the revenues of the State. Under these circumstances, the Government is compelled to raise a number of taxes / fees keeping in view the public interest.

9. After careful examination of the matter, Government have decided to levy a COVID fee on each of the Bar licenses of an amount equal to 20% of the base License fee and non-refundable Registration Charge in each slab prescribed in Rule 14 of the A.P.Excise (Grant of licence of selling by Bar and conditions of licence) Rules, 2017, in public interest.

10. Accordingly, the following Notification will be published in an Extra-ordinary issue of the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, dated the 19th September, 2020.

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (e) of Section-22 of the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act,1968 (Andhra Pradesh Act No. 17 of 1968), the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby levy a COVID fee for the year 2020-21 on each of the Bar licenses of an amount equal to 20% of the base License fee and non-refundable Registration Charge in each slab prescribed in Rule 14 of the A.P. Excise (Grant of licence of selling by Bar and conditions of licence) Rules, 2017.

2. These orders shall come into force w.e.f. 19.09.2020.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr. RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Printing and Stationery and Stores Purchase,
A.P., Vijayawada (with a request to send 100 copies of the Notification to Government and 300 copies to the Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise, A.P., Vijayawada)
The Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Managing Director, A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited, Vijayawada.
Copy to:
The P.S. to the Prl. Secretary to Chief Minister.
The P.S. to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister (Excise & CT).
The P.S. to the Special Chief Secretary to Govt. Revenue (CT, P&E, R&S).
SC/SF.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER